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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,252	02/19/2004	Alan Sturt	LC 0146 PUS	2251
36014	7590	04/26/2005	EXAMINER	
JOHN A. ARTZ ARTZ & ARTZ, P.C. 28333 TELEGRAPH ROAD, SUITE 250 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48034			PATEL, KIRAN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/708,252

Applicant(s)

STURT ET AL.

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

Non-Final Rejection

### **Election/Restriction**

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, Species A, Fig 1-2D, and Claim(s) 1-14, is acknowledged.

Claim(s) 15-20, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim(s) 2-10, 12-14, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim(s) 2-10, 12-14, it appears that "A system" should be "The System" to provide proper antecedent basis.

3. Claim(s), elected for prosecution, are confusing and are not clear because claimed limitations, (Claim(s) 6, said mirror is exchangeable with said message board to be in a forefront orientation; Claim(s) 7, said message board covering at least portion of said mirror when in said forefront orientation; Claim(s) 8, said mirror covers at least a portion of said message board when in said forefront orientation; Claim(s) 13, an exchange mechanism actuable to switch between said message and said mirror; Claim(s) 14, said exchange mechanism is in the form of a slider), are few examples of limitations not shown in the figures and/or lacks support in the specification and therefore fails to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These limitations must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Applicant is requested to go through the whole application and ensure that the claimed matter has been described in the specification and shown in the drawing in such a way as to convey to one skilled in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Correction is required.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claim(s) 1-3, 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crooks (5,401,916).

Regarding Claim(s) 1-3, 9-11, Crooks (5,401,916) discloses the invention as claimed to include a message board 10, a first layer 63, and a second layer 65 residing adjacent said first layer and configured such that at least a portion of said first layer adheres to said second layer to form an image in response to applied pressure 25 on said first layer; an erase member 21 residing between said first layer and said second layer; said erase member separates said first layer from second layer upon passing said eraser member across said message board; said first layer comprises a resin type material; and said second layer is vinyl type material.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim(s) 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crooks (5,401,916) in view of Igarashi et al. (4,983,951).

Regarding Claim(s) 4, Crooks (5,401,916) discloses the invention as claimed.

However, Crooks (5,401,916) does not disclose an instrument panel.

Igarashi et al. (4,983,951) discloses an instrument panel (abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention, as disclosed by Crooks (5,401,916), to include an instrument panel, as disclosed by Igarashi et al. (4,983,951), to provide the ability for a car driver/passenger to prepare a message and ability to erase the message and reuse the messaging materials.

6. Claim(s) 5, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crooks (5,401,916) in view of Lin (5,432,496).

Regarding Claim(s) 5, 12, Crooks (5,401,916) discloses the invention as claimed.

However, Crooks (5,401,916) does not disclose a mirror.

Lin (5,432,496) discloses a mirror (abstract).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention, as disclosed by Crooks (5,401,916), to include a mirror, as disclosed by Lin (5,432,496), to provide the ability for a car driver/passenger to prepare a message and ability to erase the message and reuse the messaging materials.

### **Conclusion**

7. The prior art made of record in attached Notice of Reference Cited (PTO-892) and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This art of record shows various features similar to the applicant's invention.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The

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fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is  
assigned is (703) 872-9306.

  
Kiran B. Patel, P. E.  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3612  
April 21, 2005